

Remarks

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested, particularly as herein amended.

The Office Action of April 10, 2007, first objects to claims 8 to 12 and 14 to 32 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being in improper multiple dependent form. Applicants' claims 1 to 32 have been canceled and replaced with claims 33 to 65, none of which are currently in multiple dependent form. It is submitted that this operates to overcome the stated objection to claims 8 to 12 and 14 to 32 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c), and to otherwise comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In the event that any additional issues are identified which may require further consideration, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss and resolve such issues.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement because there is not considered to be an adequate description or showing in the drawings of how to make and use a handpiece having a head and a handle forming axes that are parallel and displaced from one another. As previously indicated, applicants' claims 1 to 32 have been canceled and replaced with claims 33 to 65, none of which recite subject matter corresponding to former dependent claim 4, subject matter which in itself would have been known to the person of ordinary skill in this art at the time the present

invention was made to be an alternative to the contra-angle handpiece configuration shown in the drawings. It is submitted that this leaves moot the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,011,408 (Nakanishi). Claims 2 to 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over proposed combinations of Nakanishi with U.S. Patents to Kuhn (No. 7,074,041), Lincoln (No. 274,008) and Nemetz et al. (No. 6,149,430), and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0168610 (Papanek et al.).

It is submitted that such rejections of applicants' claims are left moot by the amendments made to the original claims which are now presented in pending claims 33 to 65.

Independent claim 33 is presently directed to a dental handpiece having mechanical components and generally comprised of a tool-holder assembly for receiving and for rotationally driving a dental instrument about a drive axis, and an internal assembly for transmitting rotational movement to the tool-holder assembly. As was originally recited in former independent claim 1, the mechanical components are mounted in a body having a head and a handle. The head includes a first housing for receiving the component parts of the head, and the handle includes a second housing for receiving the internal component parts of the handle. Additionally recited are formation of the body as a unitary,

electrically insulating envelope, as disclosed in the original specification at lines 29 to 31 of page 5; the conduction of electrical current from the end of the handle opposite to the head to a lateral opening which communicates with the interior portions of the head, by internal component parts of the handle, as disclosed in the original specification from line 16 of page 6 to line 10 of page 7; and a barrel pinion associated with the head, for rotation about the drive axis, which is electrically conductive and which ensures an electrical connection between the internal component parts of the handle and the dental instrument coupled with the tool-holder assembly, as disclosed in the original specification from line 14 of page 7 to line 1 of page 8.

It is submitted that such structure is neither disclosed by Nakanishi, nor obvious in view of the teachings of Nakanishi, Kuhn, Lincoln, Nemetz et al. and Papanek et al., and accordingly, that the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and claims 2 to 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), have been overcome.

The undersigned further notes, with appreciation, that the drawings originally submitted for this patent application have been approved, that applicants' claim of priority for this matter has been acknowledged, and that applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of September 8, 2006, has been considered.

However, as a final matter, it is noted that the

specification has been objected to because the abstract is considered to be too long. This objection is not understood because the original abstract contained less than the 150 words permitted by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). Nevertheless, and in an effort to respond to this objection, the following steps have been taken.

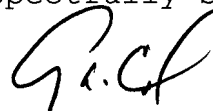
First, although the original abstract is not considered to be overlong, an amended Abstract has been submitted for this patent application which grammatically improves the originally submitted Abstract and which has a length of less than 150 words. The amended Abstract has also been reproduced on a separate sheet enclosed with this Reply, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), and entry of the amended Abstract is therefore respectfully requested. Second, in the event that the objection may have been directed to the title for this patent application, the title has been amended, and shortened, to advance the prosecution of this patent application.

Although not required by the Office Action of April 10, 2007, a substitute specification has also been submitted for this patent application to make grammatical corrections resulting from translation of the original specification from French into English when steps were taken to enter the U.S. national stage of the International Application on which the present U.S. Patent Application is based, and to include the section headings suggested in the issued Office Action. A marked-up copy of the

original specification showing the changes which have been made in the substitute specification has also been enclosed, on separate pages, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.125(c). The substitute specification includes no new matter, and entry of the enclosed substitute specification is therefore respectfully requested in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125(b).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance and corresponding action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G.M. Cohen', is written over the typed name.

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